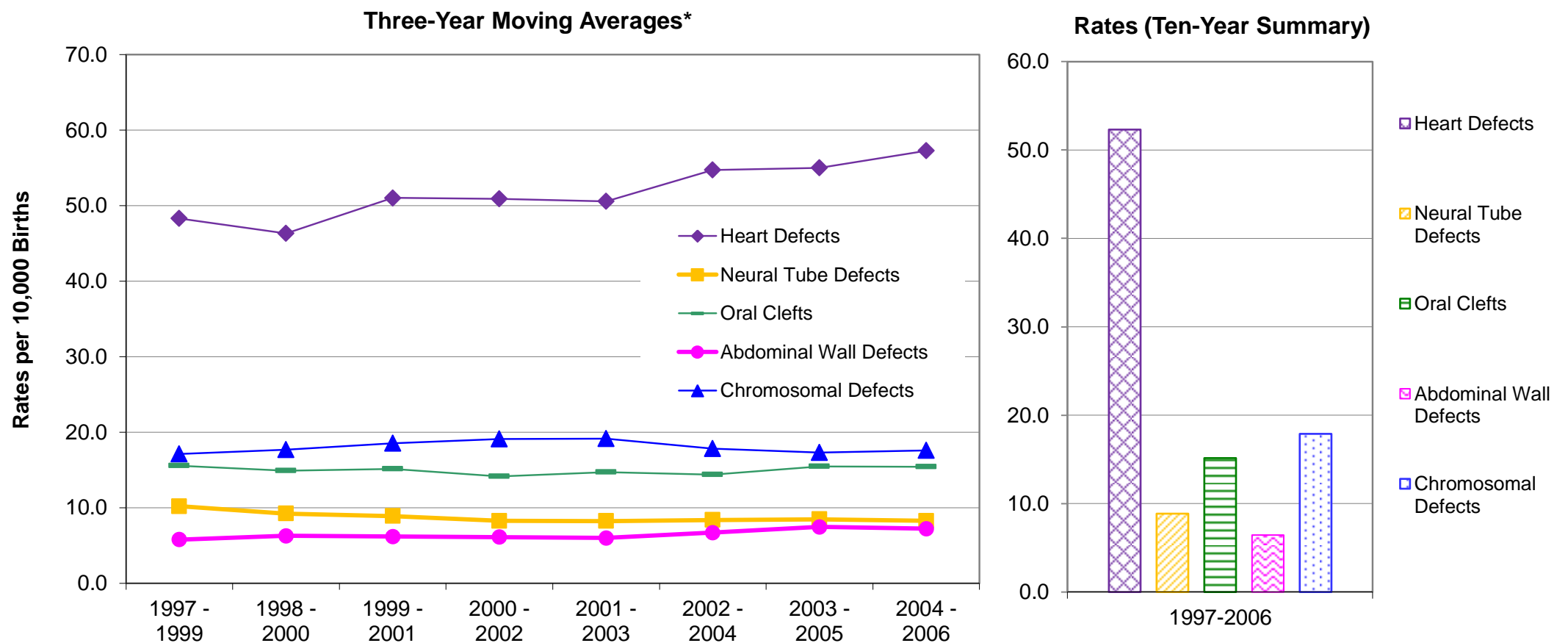


California Birth Defects Monitoring Program Data (1997-2006)

Overall Rates of Select Birth Defects - Central Valley Counties (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare)



Annual and 10-Year Rates per 10,000 Live Births & Fetal Deaths of Select Birth Defects for Central Valley Counties

Category	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1997 - 2006 (95% CI)
Heart Defects	58.6	37.5	48.9	52.2	51.8	48.7	51.2	63.7	50.2	58.0	52.3 (50.5 - 54.1)
Neural Tube Defects	12.1	7.5	11.1	9.1	6.6	9.0	9.0	7.2	9.2	8.3	8.9 (8.1 - 9.6)
Oral Clefts	16.4	14.8	15.5	14.4	15.4	12.6	16.1	14.4	15.9	16.0	15.2 (14.2 - 16.1)
Abdominal Wall Defects	5.4	5.9	6.1	6.9	5.6	5.9	6.5	7.6	8.2	5.9	6.4 (5.8 - 7.1)
Chromosomal Defects	15.7	16.9	18.7	17.3	19.5	20.3	17.7	15.6	18.6	18.5	17.9 (16.8 - 19.0)

* Rates displayed in graph are based on the average of cases over three years

Key Facts for Selected Birth Defects

Heart Defects (Conotruncal, Septal, and other Heart Defects**)

- Heart defects are the most common type of birth defect.
- Congenital heart defects occur in 1 out of every 115-150 births.
- In most cases it is not known what causes a heart defect. Both genetics and the environment play a role.

**Refer to defect page for specific classification

Neural Tube Defects (Spina Bifida, Anencephaly, and Encephalocele)

- It has been shown that consuming the recommended dose of folic acid (400 micrograms a day) can reduce the risk of NTDs by 50-70%.
- NTDs often form before a woman even knows she is pregnant.
- The specific causes of NTDs are unknown, but it is believed that both genetic and environmental factors are involved.

Oral Clefts (Oral Palate without Cleft Lip and Cleft Lip with or without Cleft Palate)

- Cleft lip, with or without cleft palate, affects 1 in 700 babies annually, and is the fourth most common birth defect in the U.S.
- In most cases, the cause of cleft lip and cleft palate is unknown but appears to be a result of a combination of genetic and environmental factors.
- Cleft lip/palate is more common in Asians and certain groups of American Indians.

Abdominal Wall Defects (Gastroschisis and Omphalocele)

- The two most common AWD are omphalocele and gastroschisis, and can often be detected with prenatal ultrasound.
- The causes of AWDs are unclear, although some risk factors have been associated (smoking, substance abuse, young maternal age).

Chromosomal Defects (Trisomy 13, Trisomy 18, Trisomy 21 (Down Syndrome))

- About 1 in 540 pregnancies in CA is diagnosed with a chromosome abnormality.
- Down syndrome is the most common genetic disorder caused by a chromosomal abnormality.
- Trisomies increase with a mother's age. Women over age 34 are routinely offered prenatal diagnosis because of their higher risk.